



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**ANTHONY J. JENKINS**  
*United States Attorney*  
*District of the Virgin Islands*

---

*Federal Building & United States Courthouse*  
*5500 Veterans Drive, Suite 260*  
*Charlotte Amalie*  
*St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802-6424*  
*Voice: (340) 774-5757*  
*Fax: (340) 776-3474*

March 23, 2006

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JOSE PEÑA SENTENCED TO 108 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT**

United States Attorney Anthony J. Jenkins announced that Jose Peña was sentenced on March 23, 2006 by Honorable Raymond Finch to a term of 108 months imprisonment after pleading guilty to a single count of Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine. Mr. Peña is 49 years of age, and is a permanent resident alien born in the Dominican Republic.

Mr. Peña's conviction was the result of an arrest on June 16, 2004 after High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area ("HIDTA") task force officer Rodney Querrard attempted to stop Mr. Peña for a routine traffic stop. Mr. Peña and a passenger in the car attempted to flee by traveling westbound in the eastbound lane along Brewers Beach on St. Thomas. Mr. Peña and his accomplice then fled on foot into the nearby bushes. Peña was later apprehended, but his accomplice remains at large. A search of the sport utility vehicle driven by Peña revealed five (5) large bales of cocaine in the back cargo area.

On June 17, 2004 Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") Agents executed a search warrant at Peña's residence in

Estate Bovoni and seized an additional six (6) large bales of cocaine from under a bed in the residence. The size and packaging of these bales were identical to the five (5) bales seized from the vehicle the previous day. A total of approximately 120 Kilograms of cocaine were seized from Mr. Peña's vehicle and residence. On October 24, 2005 Mr. Peña pled guilty to the single count indictment which charged Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute.

U.S. Attorney Jenkins commended the efforts of the Virgin Islands Police Department, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and Immigration and Customs Enforcement for their work in this case.